

by the staff to render services to the patients. Citizen Charters have been implemented in Government hospitals. Grievance officers have also been designated to redress various complaints received.

Information Bank on Herbal Medicines

260. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would create an information bank on ancient herbal medicines, to help avoid confusion by foreign patent offices;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The establishment of a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for Ayurveda has been approved whereby a data base in a patent compatible format is in the process of preparation to forestall patents being given for what is already, in the public domain. No time limit has been fixed but it is expected to be completed in a year.

(c) Does not arise.

Utility of traditional medicines and medical practices

261. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for proper utilization of the traditional methods of tribal and non-tribal medicines and practices for treatment of common ailments and fertility control in the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government are aware of the usefulness of these traditional medicines and practices which are followed since ancient times; and

{23 February, 2001}

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of these traditional medicines and practices. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines which are autonomous research organisations funded by the Government have documented over 10,000 folklores under their ethno-botanical survey. This is a continuing programme and evaluation of efficacy has been initiated selectively.

Investigational New Drug application norms

262. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is necessary for Investigational New Drug (IND) applications to contain data from toxicity studies;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per Drugs and Cosmetics Act, toxicity studies are required at least on two animal species viz., rat and dog;

(c) whether it is necessary to get protocol for dog studies approved from CPCSEA, a Committee responsible for animal welfare;

(d) if so, how many such protocols have been approved by CPCSEA during the last two years; and

(e) how many IND applications have been received by Drug Controller General of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes. Sir, Data required for processing Investigational New Drugs (IND) applications *inter alia* includes toxicity study reports.

(b) Yes. Sir, the requirements in terms of toxicity studies on rodents (e.g. rats) as well as on non-rodents (e.g. dogs), for processing new drug applications, are laid down in Schedule Y of the Drug and Cosmetic Act and Rules thereunder.